

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

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PART 15: SHAPING THE FUTURE

Daniel experienced the power of God when he was thrown into the den of lions but this miracle was for a specific time and exclusively for him. The Lord had something greater in mind for Daniel than to be the second-in-command of the Babylonian Empire and later the Persian Empire. Personal miracles are great, but there is nothing more powerful than a prophetic word from God because it gives people an option to make a decision that will save their lives.

Both empires have ceased to exist; gone are the kings and the people who lived in that time period. Daniel went to be with the Lord thousands of years ago but the prophetic messages given to him by God still remain.

THE FIRST VISION

The first prophetic vision came to Daniel after Nebuchadnezzar died and the political situation in Babylon was unstable. There had been much infighting and killing before Belshazzar and his father took control of the throne. **Daniel 7:1**

Daniel shared the vision with someone who wrote it down, much like the Apostle John wrote down the vision he had of heaven and of things to come in the Book of Revelation. **verses 2-14**

The interpretation given to Daniel referred to a time in the future of which he had no knowledge, and it would not be revealed until some 500 years later, when the apostle John had the same vision. **verses 15-28; Revelation 17:7-18**

THE SECOND VISION

The second prophetic vision came to Daniel three years later. Babylon had not yet fallen to Persia and Daniel saw the Persian Empire being destroyed by the Greek Empire. This prophecy was fulfilled after Daniel had passed away. Alexander the Great of Greece was the one that broke the power of the Persian Empire. When Alexander died, his empire was divided into four parts. Daniel was told about the Antichrist at the end of this prophecy. **Daniel 8:1-27**

RECEIVING A THIRD PROPHETIC WORD

Some 20 years passed since Daniel's second vision and he was concerned about the prophecy given to Jeremiah that the Jewish people would be allowed to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the temple after 70 years of captivity. **Daniel 9:1-2; Jeremiah 25:11**

The two prophetic visions that Daniel had previously been given were initiated by God. This time it was Daniel taking the initiative and wanting an answer from the Lord. It is noteworthy to point out that Daniel had been a man of prayer for many years, and in seeking an answer from the Lord, he decided to fast, pray and repent on behalf of the Jewish people. **Daniel 9:3-19**



As he sought the Lord, God sent the angel Gabriel to inform Daniel about the future. **verses 20-23**

Gabriel gave him three future events:

1. The Jewish people would return to Jerusalem after 70 years and the Messiah would come after a certain time. **verses 24-25**
2. The Messiah will be killed after a certain time. **verse 26**
3. The third event refers to the future Antichrist who will sign a covenant with Israel and then break it. **verse 27**

THE FOURTH & FINAL PROPHECY

Two years later we find Daniel fasting and praying for 21 days. **Daniel 10:1-3**

He was at a river at the end of the three week fast when he is visited by an angel who has come to speak to him. **verses 4-21**

Daniel is given a condensed history lesson of what is going to take place before and during the time of Antichrist. It is from this prophetic word that we confidently know that the Antichrist will be a homosexual. **Daniel 11:36-38**

The prophetic words are finished in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Daniel, when he is told of the resurrection of the dead and that the prophecy he has been given will be closed until the end times.

DOES PROPHECY EXIST TODAY?

Did prophecy end with Daniel? No, in the Book of Acts we read about a prophet by the name of Agabus, who prophesied about a severe famine. **Acts 11:28**

The same prophet spoke a prophetic word over the apostle Paul. **Acts 21:8-11**

Let's not forget about the Book of Revelation that was given to the apostle John.

There have been many prophetic words given to Christian communities since the time of the apostles. I would like to examine one such specific instance.

THE ARMENIAN PROPHECY

A revival broke out in the 1850's in the village of Kara Kala in northern Armenia as Russian Pentecostal Christians traveled to the region and preached about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In 1854 an eleven year old boy named Efim Klubniken received a prophecy in the form of a vision, which lasted for seven days. Efim could not read or write, but still asked his parents for paper and a pen, and for seven days sat at the simple kitchen table and copied the writing and the maps that were shown to him in this vision.

The parents could not read what Efim had written and took the papers to a person in the village that was more educated. This man told them that the writing was in the Russian language and he translated it for them. The message that Efim received was that there would be a massacre of the Armenian people, and when the time drew near, the people in Armenia would have to flee. The maps showed the precise location where the Lord

wanted them to flee; they were to go and settle in the Los Angeles area of the United States. Most of the villages had limited knowledge of the outside world and did not know where the United States was located or Los Angeles for that matter.

The people in the village of Kara Kala did not take the prophecy seriously and Efim had his parents to put all the papers in an envelope and seal it.

When Efim was about 59 years old, he received the word from the Lord that it was time for the people in Armenia to sell what they had and flee to America. In 1904, Efim and his family left, along with hundreds of other families who started to leave during the next few years. Among the families to leave in 1905 were Demos Shakarian, his wife, six daughters and one son named Isaac. They made their way to Los Angeles where they settled down. Isaac Shakarian eventually became a wealthy dairy farmer and his son was also named Demos after the grandfather. Demos inherited the family dairy farm and founded the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in the late 1940's.

In 1914 the Turkish government, who was at war with Russia, made the decision to destroy the Armenian people. The reason for this genocide was that Turkey had occupied Armenia for hundreds of years, and when war broke out between Russia and Turkey, large numbers of Armenian men took up arms and formed a guerilla army and joined forces with Russia. The Turkish government had recently been overthrown in 1913 by the Young Turks Movement, which decided that all Armenians had to be killed in order to save Turkey.

In 1914, Turkish army units rolled into the area where the Armenians lived and systematically went from city to city, village to village and killed every man, woman and child. More than 1.5 million Armenian people were slaughtered.

Many times Armenian people were rounded up and forced into barns, which were then set on fire. Since the Turks were Muslims, they would offer freedom to any Armenian who was willing to renounce their Christian faith. Very few chose to do so, and as the barns were burning, they would sing Christian songs until the fire quenched their voices.

Turkey passed a law some years ago that it is a crime to talk about this genocide, and when the Armenian community in America wanted Congress to pass a resolution condemning this massacre, the pressure from the Turkish government was so great that the different presidents of the United States do not acknowledge that Armenians were slaughtered without mercy from 1914-1915 and that this was a crime against humanity.

The people who believed the prophecy and acted upon it were in shock as they realized that God had mercifully warned His people to flee the coming tragedy but the majority of the Armenian people ignored the warning.

SUMMARY

As we come down to the end of times, I believe God will raise up men and women who will have a prophetic gift to warn fellow Christians about future evil events. You might be one of the prophets whom God chooses to use! **Ephesians 4:11-15**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?